

ways. His encyclopedic knowledge of University activities and his intelligent, openhanded advice has greatly helped me advocate on behalf of the University of Iowa, its students, and its faculty and staff. My staff and I will always cherish his graciousness, his wisdom, and his thoughtfulness.

On behalf of all Iowans, I would like to thank Derek for his years of service to the University of Iowa, the State of Iowa, and our nation. I know I join his colleagues, friends, and loved ones in wishing him well in his retirement.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, yesterday I was unavoidably detained and missed rollcall vote 472. If present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote 472.

RECOGNIZING SHERIFF TOMAS S. HERRERA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Sheriff Tomas S. Herrera, a distinguished individual who has served in law enforcement for 36 years in South Texas. He has dedicated his career to assisting the Texas community through his involvement in various coalitions, councils and distinguished positions centered on efforts to protect Texas and our southwest border.

Sheriff Herrera was born in Eagle Pass, Texas and is a graduate of Eagle Pass High. Mr. Herrera began his law enforcement career in 1974 and served as the Justice of the Peace until 1976. A year later he began his 16-year service as Chief Deputy under the late Sheriff Tom Bowles. Mr. Herrera was a key instrument in the planning and building process of the new jail facility named after the late Tom Bowles. In addition, Sheriff Herrera served as Municipal Court Judge from 1995 to 1997. After holding dual positions as Constable and Deputy Constable, Mr. Tomas S. Herrera was sworn in as the Honorable Sheriff of Maverick County in 2005.

Mr. Herrera is a highly regarded member of the South Texas community and has many notable career accomplishments. In an effort to assist the Federal Government in Homeland Security to protect our borders from terrorist activities or threats, he established the newly created Texas Border Sheriff's Coalition in Laredo, Texas in 2005. Under this newly created Coalition, he held the title of Secretary/Treasurer on the Executive Committee. Additionally, two years later Sheriff Herrera and other community individuals initiated the construction of a 688-bed detention facility.

Mr. Herrera held key positions within the community and State of Texas, including an appointment by the Sheriff's Association of Texas President by Sheriff Tomas Kerss to the Texas Jail Commission Committee. Sheriff

Herrera also served as Chairman of the Texas Border Sheriff Coalition in 2007 and was appointed by Governor Rick Perry to the Border Security Council. From 2008 to 2009 Mr. Herrera was appointed as the Board of Director for the Southwest Border Sheriff Coalition (SWTBSC). Today, Sheriff Herrera continues to contribute to the community by being a member of the Sheriff's Association of Texas. He was reappointed last year by the NSA President Sheriff Paul H. Fitzgerald to a 5th term to the Immigration/Border Security Committee. Mr. Herrera was also recently appointed by President of the Sheriffs', JW Jankowski to the Jail Advisory Committee. Mr. Herrera is married to Magdalena P. Herrera and together they have three children and seven grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored and privileged to have this time to recognize Mr. Tomas S. Herrera's extraordinary commitment and service in South Texas. His tremendous efforts to protect and serve the community have made a significant impact in the State of Texas.

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT GENERAL DENNIS J. HEJLIK

HON. TOM LATHAM

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. LATHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate native Iowan Lieutenant General Dennis Hejlik of the United States Marine Corps on his illustrious 44-year military career that will be coming to a close on Monday at an awards dinner at the Marine Barracks in Washington, DC.

Before he was a three-star general and commander of Marine Corps Forces Command, Lieutenant General Hejlik, then known around town as Dennis, grew up on a farm near Garner, Iowa, with his nine brothers and sisters. He would go on to graduate from Garner-Hayfield High School in 1965 and attend North Iowa Area Community College before beginning his military career when he enlisted in the Marines Corps in 1968. Four short years later, Lieutenant General Hejlik was commissioned through the Marine Corps Platoon Leaders Course. Since joining the Marines, Lieutenant General Hejlik has gone on to become an honor graduate of the Basic School, the Amphibious Warfare School, the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and the Naval War College.

Lieutenant General Hejlik has earned numerous decorations for his service over the last four decades including the Defense Superior Service Medal with Gold Star, Meritorious Service Medal with two Gold Stars, the Navy Marine Corps Achievement Medal, and the Leftwich Award, just to name a few. Since his humble beginnings in Iowa, his time with the Marine Corps has brought him to all corners of the globe, most recently culminating to his current position as the commander of Marine Corps Forces Command in Norfolk, Virginia and Marine Corps Forces Europe in Boblingen, Germany.

Mr. Speaker, our country owes Lieutenant General Hejlik a great debt of gratitude for his decades of service and sacrifice. His unwavering commitment to serving his country and fellow Americans embodies the Iowa spirit. I

know all of my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives will join me in thanking Lieutenant General Hejlik and congratulating him on his truly stellar career. I wish him the best of luck in his future endeavors as he begins a new chapter in his life.

OUR UNCONSCIONABLE NATIONAL DEBT

HON. MIKE COFFMAN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 19, 2012

Mr. COFFMAN of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, on January 20, 2009, the day President Obama took office, the national debt was \$10,626,877,048,913.08.

Today, it is \$15,874,046,715,877.56. We've added \$5,247,169,666,964.48 to our debt in just over 3 years. This is debt our Nation, our economy, and our children could have avoided with a balanced budget amendment.

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2013

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, July 18, 2012

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5856) making appropriations for the Department of Defense for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2013, and for other purposes:

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Chair, as Co-Chair of the Congressional Brain Injury Task Force, I have spent the last eleven years I have fought for patients with brain injuries, both on and off the battlefield. We all know that traumatic brain injury (TBI) is the signature wound of the conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, and while we made great progress on ensuring our soldiers have the best care, there is still more work to be done.

An Institute of Medicine study was released last week about the effects of Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) on our troops who have served in Iraq and Afghanistan. I am particularly concerned with the report's analysis of the Department of Defense's efforts to identify and treat PTSD. The 2010 Defense Authorization required this study as well as mandated the Secretary of Defense and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to report a response to this report the relevant Committees by no later than January 1, 2013.

As this report shows, there is still more work to be done when it comes to caring for our soldiers suffering from Post Traumatic Stress Disorder. The report notes that the prevalence of PTSD in 2.6 million service members who have served in Iraq or Afghanistan is at a staggering rate of 13% to 20%. This statistic points to the importance of finding better ways to identify and treat this ailment. The report's many recommendations include the need for the Department of Defense to collect data on the delivery and effectiveness of all prevention, screening, diagnosis, treatment and rehabilitative services currently in use to determine